

That which is claimed:

1. A method of routing incoming communications to a wireless terminal, the method comprising:
  - 5 associating a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal;
  - determining that the wireless terminal is not available; and
  - routing an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not
  - 10 available.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal comprises:
  - defining the alternate routing identifier at the wireless terminal; and
  - 15 communicating the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal to a wireless network.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein communicating the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal to the wireless network comprises
  - 20 communicating the alternate routing identifier as a data message from the wireless terminal to the wireless network.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein communicating the alternate routing identifier as a data message from the wireless terminal to the wireless network
  - 25 comprises communicating the alternate routing identifier as at least one of a short message service data message, an enhanced messaging service data message, and an email data message.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal comprises:
  - 30 defining at the wireless terminal an alternate phone number to which a call to the wireless terminal is to be redirected;
  - communicating the phone number as the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal to a wireless network; and

associating the alternate phone number with the wireless terminal identifier at the wireless network.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating a wireless terminal  
5 identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal comprises receiving the alternate routing identifier from an Internet website that is associated with a wireless network.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein associating a wireless terminal  
10 identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal comprises receiving the alternate routing identifier via a land-line phone.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the wireless terminal identifier  
comprises a wireless phone number, wherein the wireless terminal is registered with a  
15 wireless network, and wherein routing the incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available comprises routing an incoming call for the wireless phone number to a voice mailbox that is not associated with the wireless network.

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9. The method of Claim 1, wherein routing the incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available comprises routing an incoming data message for the wireless terminal identifier to a data message mailbox that is  
25 associated with the alternate routing identifier.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein routing the incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available comprises:  
30 determining that the incoming communication comprises a data message; and routing the data message based on at least one of an internet address that is associated with the alternate routing identifier, a telephone number for a mobile terminal that is associated with the alternate routing identifier, and a telephone number for a pager that is associated with the alternate routing identifier.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein routing an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available comprises:

- 5       determining that the incoming communication comprises a text message;  
      converting the text message to an audible signal; and  
      routing the audible signal based on the alternate routing identifier.

12. A wireless network that routes incoming communications to a wireless  
10 terminal, the wireless network comprising:

      a registry that is configured to associate a wireless terminal identifier and an alternate routing identifier with a wireless terminal; and

      a mobile switching center that is configured to route an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the  
15 alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available.

13. The wireless network of Claim 12, wherein the registry is configured to associate a plurality of alternate routing identifiers with the wireless terminal identifier.

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14. The wireless network of Claim 13, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to sequentially determine the availability of communication devices associated with the plurality of alternate routing identifiers when the wireless terminal is not available, and to route the incoming communication based on the  
25 determination of the availability of the communication devices.

15. The wireless network of Claim 13, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to simultaneously route the incoming communication to at least some of the plurality of alternate routing identifiers when the wireless terminal is not  
30 available.

16. The wireless network of Claim 12, wherein the registry is configured to receive the alternate routing identifier from the wireless terminal, and is configured

to determine the associated wireless terminal identifier based on information from the wireless terminal.

17. The wireless network of Claim 12, further comprising a data network  
5 access component that is configured to receive an alternate routing identifier from a user of a wireless terminal and to communicate the alternate routing identifier to the registry.

18. The wireless network of Claim 12, wherein:  
10 the registry is configured to associate a wireless terminal identifier with an alternative data routing identifier and an alternative voice routing identifier; and  
the mobile switching center is configured to route the incoming communication based on the data routing identifier when the incoming communication comprises a data message, and is configured to routing the incoming  
15 communication based on the voice routing identifier when the incoming communication comprises a voice call.

19. The wireless network of Claim 12, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to convert an incoming text message to an audible signal and to  
20 route the audible signal based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available.

20. The wireless network of Claim 12, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to convert an incoming voice call to a text message and to route  
25 the text message based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available.

21. The wireless network of Claim 12, wherein the mobile switching center is configured to record an incoming voice call as a data message when the  
30 wireless terminal is not available, and is configured to route the data message based on the alternate routing identifier.

22. A computer program product for routing incoming communications to a wireless terminal, the computer program product comprising program code

embodied in a computer-readable storage medium, the computer program code comprising:

program code that is configured to associate a wireless terminal identifier with an alternate routing identifier; and

5        program code that is configured to route an incoming communication, which is directed to the wireless terminal identifier, based on the alternate routing identifier when the wireless terminal is not available.

23.     The computer program product according to Claim 22, further  
10        comprising program code that is configured to receive the alternate routing identifier from a wireless terminal, and to associate the alternate routing identifier with the wireless terminal identifier based on information from the wireless terminal.

24.     The computer program product according to Claim 22, wherein the  
15        alternate routing identifier is a phone number that is associated with a public switched telephone network.

25.     The computer program product according to Claim 22, further  
comprising program code that is configured to route an incoming data message for the  
20        wireless terminal identifier to a data message mailbox that is associated with the alternate routing identifier.

26.     The computer program product according to Claim 22, further  
comprising program code that is configured to route an incoming data message based  
25        on at least one of an internet address that is associated with the alternate routing identifier, a telephone number for a mobile terminal that is associated with the alternate routing identifier, and a telephone number for a pager that is associated with the alternate routing identifier.

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